
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5124

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS AND ACCESS TO RESTRICTED RECORDS IN THE STATE ARCHIVES.

SUMMARY:

This bill opens to the public, 75 years after their creation, government records (excluding medical records) deemed confidential, classified, or private, regardless of any prohibition or state law.

It opens medical records housed in the state archives 50 years after the death of the person who is the subject of those records, regardless of any prohibition or state law. But it requires that the person's name, address, and social security number be obscured or removed from the records before they are released.

The bill requires the state archives to own and retain for posterity any record transferred to them that the state archivist determines to be of historical value.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

AFFECTED RECORDS

Government Records

A government record is any recorded data or information prepared, owned, used, received, or retained by a state or local government agency that has been deemed confidential, classified, or private.

Medical Records

A medical record is any information, either oral or recorded in any form or medium, that is created or received by a health care provider, health plan, employer, life insurer, school, university, or health care clearinghouse as defined in federal law, that relates to:

1. an individual's past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition;
2. provision of health care to an individual; or
3. an individual's past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care.

BACKGROUND

State Archives

By law, the State Library Board must create and maintain the official state archives. The state archivist is an assistant to the State Librarian (CGS § 11-1c).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/19/2014)